

IN THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-15 (cancelled)

16. (New) A data reception apparatus for obtaining media data, which includes video data, audio data and/or text data, from data sources on a network, and for playing the obtained media data to display a scene, said apparatus comprising:

a first reception unit operable to receive: location information indicating locations on the network of the data sources having respective media data; first time information indicating playback start times of the respective media data, and second time information indicating times at which the respective media data are to be requested from the respective data source;

a time setting unit operable to set a data request time for each media data based on the first time information and the second time information, said data request time being a time at which a request for media data is sent to the respective data source, and said time setting unit setting the data request time for each media data as a time that is earlier than the respective playback start time by a specific respective time for each media data;

a data request unit operable to send a request for each media data, at the data request time of the respective media data, to the respective data source based on the location information of the respective media data; and

a second reception unit operable to receive the media data from the data sources according to the requests from the data request unit.

17. (New) The data reception apparatus of claim 16, wherein:

the second time information indicates a latency time which is a time from receipt of the media data to a time at which the media data is to be played; and

said time setting unit is operable to set the data request time for each media data to be a time that is earlier than the playback start time by the latency time.

18. (New) The data reception apparatus of claim 16, wherein:
the time setting unit is operable to set the data request time for each media data as the time indicated in the second time information.

19. (New) The data reception apparatus of claim 16, wherein:
the second time information indicates a latency time which is a time from receipt of the media data to a time at which the media data is to be played; and
said time setting unit is operable to set the data request time for each media data to be a time that is earlier than the playback start time by the sum of the latency time and a predetermined time.

20. (New) The data reception apparatus of claim 16, wherein:
said time setting unit is operable to set the data request time for each media data to be a time that is earlier, by a predetermined time, than the time indicated in the second time information.

21. (New) A data reception method for obtaining media data, which includes video data, audio data and/or text data, from data sources on a network, and for playing the obtained media data to display a scene, said method comprising:

receiving: location information indicating locations on the network of the data sources having respective media data; first time information indicating playback start times of the respective media data, and second time information indicating times at which the respective media data are to be requested from the respective data source;

setting a data request time for each media data based on the first time information and the second time information, said data request time being a time at which a request for media data is sent to the respective data source, and said data request time being a time that is earlier than the playback start time by a specific time which is set for each media data;

sending a request for each media data, at the data request time of the respective media data, to the respective data source based on the location information of the respective media data; and
receiving the media data from the data sources according to the sent requests.

22. (New) The data reception method of claim 21, wherein:
the second time information indicates a latency time which is a time from receipt of the media data to a time at which the media data is to be played; and
the data request time for each media data is set to be a time that is earlier than the playback start time by the latency time.

23. (New) The data reception method of claim 21, wherein:
the data request time for each media data is set as the time indicated in the second time information.

24. (New) The data reception method of claim 21, wherein:
the second time information indicates a latency time which is a time from receipt of the media data to a time at which the media data is to be played; and
the data request time for each media data is set to be a time that is earlier than the playback start time by the sum of the latency time and a predetermined time.

25. (New) The data reception method of claim 21, wherein:
the data request time for each media data is set to be a time that is earlier, by a predetermined time, than the time indicated in the second time information.

26. (New) A data transmission method for transmitting media data, which includes video data, audio data and/or text data, to a reception terminal for playing the media data to display a scene, said method comprising:

transmitting: location information indicating locations of data sources having respective media data; first time information indicating playback start times of the respective media data, and second time information indicating times at which the respective media data are to be requested from the respective data source; and

transmitting the media data to the reception terminal according to requests issued from the reception terminal and based on the first time information, the second time information, and the location information.

27. (New) The data transmission method of claim 26, wherein the second time information indicates a latency time which is a time from receipt of the media data to a time at which the media data is to be played.

28. (New) A data storage medium containing a data playback program operable to make a computer perform a data playback process including obtaining media data, which includes video data, audio data and/or text data, from data sources on a network, and playing the obtained media data to display a scene, said playback program comprising:

a first program operable to make the computer receive: location information indicating locations on the network of the data sources having respective media data; first time information indicating playback start times of the respective media data, and second time information indicating times at which the respective media data are to be requested from the respective data source;

a second program operable to make the computer set a data request time for each media data based on the first time information and the second time information, said data request time being a time at which a request for media data is sent to the respective data source, and said data request time being a time that is earlier than the playback start time by a specific time which is set for each media data;

a third program operable to make the computer send a request for each media data, at the data request time of the respective media data, to the respective data source based on the location information of the respective media data; and

a fourth program operable to make the computer receive the media data from the data sources according to the sent requests.

29. (New) A data storage medium containing a data playback program operable to make a computer perform a data playback process including transmitting media data, which includes video

data, audio data and/or text data, to a reception terminal for playing the media data to display a scene, said data playback program comprising:

a first program operable to make the computer transmit: location information indicating locations of data sources having respective media data; first time information indicating playback start times of the respective media data, and second time information indicating times at which the respective media data are to be requested from the respective data source; and

a second program operable to make the computer transmit the media data to the reception terminal according to requests issued from the reception terminal and based on the first time information, the second time information, and the location information.